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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Items 3 and 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Discussion on the special theme for the year: "Indigenous peoples: development with culture and identity: articles 3 and 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples"

Human rights: implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Information received from Governments

Republic of Namibia

Summary

The present document contains the response of the Government of the Republic of Namibia to the questionnaire sent to Member States concerning the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its eighth session.

* E/C.19/2010/1

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Introduction

1. As mentioned in our previous submission in 2009, the Government of the Republic of Namibia will continue its efforts to assist our most marginalized communities where possible to ensure that all of us as Namibians are integrated into the mainstream of our economy to achieve our "Vision 2030" and the Millennium Development Goals.

2. In addition, our submission is more or less the same as that of last year, as nothing much has changed during the most recent time period.

3. However, it is worth mentioning that the Cabinet of the Republic of Namibia, in accordance with decision No. 25/29.11.05/001, recently decided to create a Directorate for the "San Development Programme" within the Office of the Prime Minister.

Responses to questionnaire to Governments from the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in preparation for its ninth session

4. Response to recommendations addressed to Governments by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in its report (E/2009/43, paras. 19, 31 and 39):

> [19.] In all decision-making processes, the Government of the Republic of Namibia always applies a community participatory approach.
>
> [31.] Following the achievement of its independence in 1990, the Government of the Republic of Namibia established the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare.
>
> [39.] The Republic of Namibia is a signatory to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

5. The Constitution of the Republic of Namibia protects the rights of all citizens, including those in marginalized communities, concerning culture and identity.

6. The objective of the San Development Programme, which was approved by the Cabinet on 29 November 2005 and spearheaded by the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister, is to ensure that our San people are fully integrated in the mainstream of our society and economy and thereby to ensure that all of us, as Namibians, can achieve our "Vision 2030". In terms of the Third National Development Plan, the welfare of the San communities is categorized as a priority programme under the key result area related to quality of life and in line with the Millennium Development Goal of eradicating extreme poverty.

7. Obstacles faced by the Government of Namibia in the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum are a lack of financial resources, human resources and public awareness.

8. As mentioned above, the Cabinet of the Republic of Namibia, in accordance with decision No. 25/29.11.05/001, recently decided to create a Directorate for the San Development Programme within the Office of the Prime Minister to accelerate the integration of marginalized communities into the mainstream of the economy.